

SASKATCHEWAN

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(1955)

INTRODUCTION TO SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan, as a province, is very young. Less than 50 years ago her quarter million square miles were just a part of the vast Northwest Territories.

In a scant half century Saskatchewan has developed to the point where today she produces 60 percent of all wheat grown in Canada—and wheat is still Canada's most important export to a hungry world.

By now, industries other than agriculture have become significant. Oil, uranium, metallic and other minerals, lumber, fish, fur, manufacturing—all spell a distinguished destiny for the broadening economy of the province.

This booklet will attempt to provide you with some of the more important facts about Saskatchewan. By reason of its size it will be largely statistical. To appreciate the true nature of the province, keep in mind that this brief story is significant only as it concerns people—people of all races and creeds, of all ages and descriptions—in short, the people of Saskatchewan.





GEOGRAPHY

Saskatchewan — or “swiftly running water” — was the name given by the Cree Indians to the greatest river of the prairies. On September 1, 1905, when The Saskatchewan Act was put into effect by the Dominion Government, the Cree name was adopted for the new province, created from a part of the old Northwest Territories.

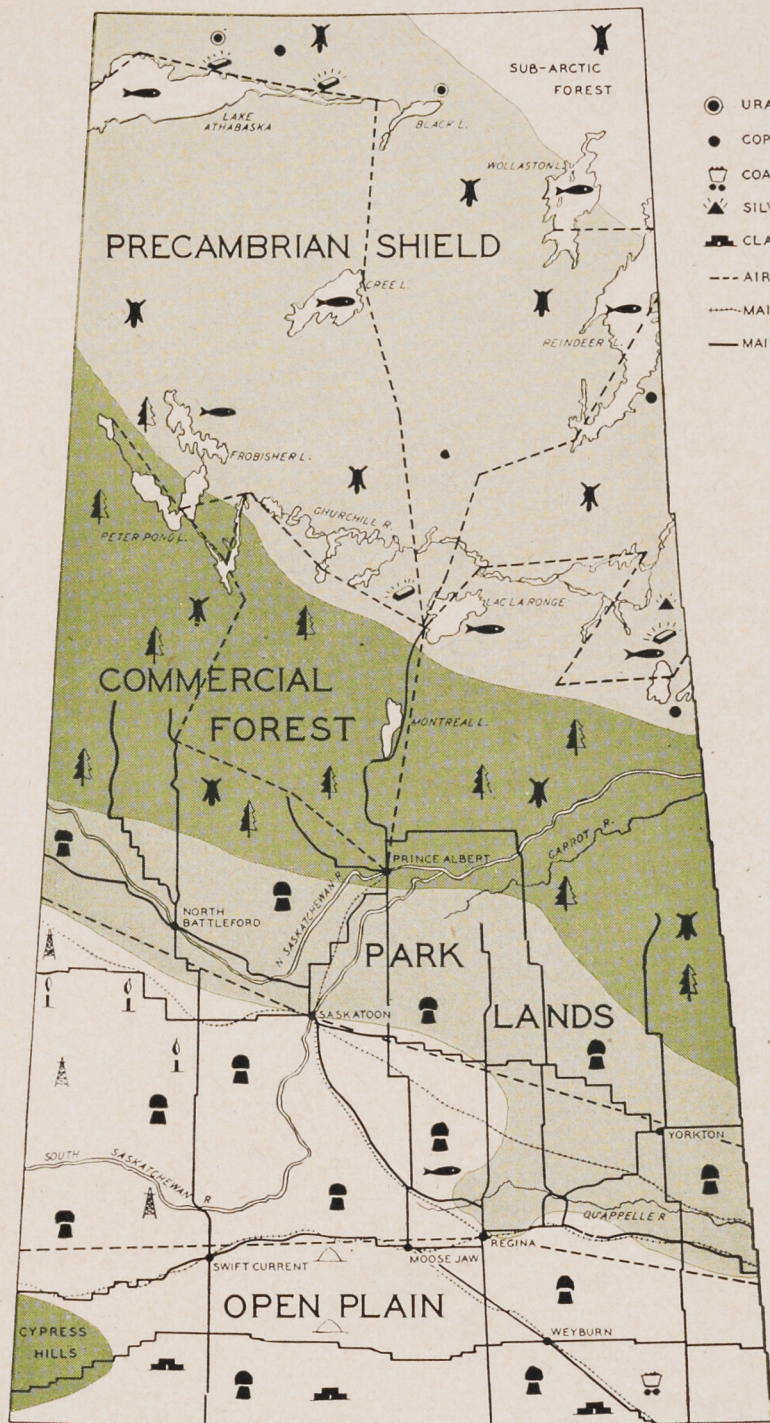
Saskatchewan, bounded on the south by the American states of North Dakota and Montana, lies between Alberta on the west and Manitoba on the east, running northward to the Northwest Territories.

The total area of the province is 251,700 square miles, with about 18,725 square miles of fresh water, mainly in the north. It is 761 miles in length and tapers from a width of 393 miles along the Canada-United States border to 277 miles at its northern extremity.

The main rivers of the province are the North and South Saskatchewan, which join east of Prince Albert; the Qu'Appelle and the Carrot. Of the countless lakes and rivers in northern Saskatchewan, the main waters are the historically-famous Churchill River, Lake Athabaska, which lies partly in Alberta, and Reindeer Lake, the northeast tip of which is in Manitoba.

Saskatchewan is divided into four chief geographical regions: the open plains country of the south, a region of rolling prairies, interrupted by ridges and valleys; the park lands further north, with copses or bluffs of poplar; the commercial forest area, a great tree belt; and, the minerally-rich Precambrian Shield in the north, with thousands of lakes and rivers, muskegs and rocks worn smooth by erosion.

The climate of the province runs from extreme cold in winter to intense heat in the summer, but the atmosphere is not humid. Annual rainfall averages from 13 to 18 inches. Intermittent winds range from gentle breezes to gusts of 60 m.p.h., with average velocity of 12.9 m.p.h. and prevailing directions from the south-east and secondly, the north-west.



Legend

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| ● URANIUM | 🐟 FISH |
| ● COPPER | 🦉 FUR |
| ⛏ COAL | 🌲 TIMBER |
| ⚡ SILVER | 🌾 WHEAT |
| 🏠 CLAY | 🛢 OIL |
| --- AIR LINES | 🔥 NATURAL GAS |
| --- MAIN RAILWAYS | ⚖ SODIUM SULPHATE |
| — MAIN HIGHWAYS | 🏠 GOLD |



PEOPLE

In 1690 Henry Kelsey became the first white man to see Saskatchewan. Pushing westward and southward from the shores of Hudson Bay, Kelsey made his way through the northern bush country and then out on the rolling plains to a point near what is now Saskatoon.

Two centuries later the Canadian Pacific Railway line had been built through the southern part of the province and slow settlement of the prairies was under way. By 1900 the population of Saskatchewan was about 90,000.

Today, according to 1954 Bureau of Statistics estimates there are 878,000 people in the province. Of these, about 44.3 percent are of British Isles stock; German, 14.5 percent; Ukrainian, 8.9 percent; Scandinavian, 7.6 percent; French, 5.5 percent; Netherlands, 4.0 percent; Polish, 3.1 percent; Jewish, 1.0 percent; and other nationalities, 11.2 percent.

More than half the people in Saskatchewan, 461,047 or 52.5 percent, live on farms, which number 112,018. The more thickly settled portion of the province extends from the International Boundary northward about 350 miles.

The provincial government is vested in a Lieutenant Governor and a Legislative Assembly of 53 members, the latter elected for five-year terms. Women have had the voting franchise and have been eligible for election to the legislature since 1916. In the 1952 election, one woman, Mrs. Marjorie Cooper, was elected in Regina as a Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (government) member.

Standing of the political parties as of March, 1955, was: C.C.F., 42; Liberals, 10; Progressive-Conservatives, 1. Lieutenant Governor of the province is Hon. W. J. Patterson, appointed to the position by the Government of Canada July 4, 1951, following the death of Hon. J. M. Uhrich, June 15, 1951.

Members of the provincial cabinet, as at March, 1955, were:

Hon. T. C. Douglas, Premier and Minister of Co-operation;

Hon. C. M. Fines, Provincial Treasurer;

Hon. J. W. Corman, Q.C., Attorney-General;

Hon. I. C. Nollet, Minister of Agriculture;

Hon. L. F. McIntosh, Minister of Municipal Affairs;

Hon. J. H. Sturdy, Minister of Social Welfare;

Hon. J. H. Brockelbank, Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Mineral Resources;

Hon. J. T. Douglas, Minister of Highways;

Hon. W. S. Lloyd, Minister of Education;

Hon. C. C. Williams, Minister of Labor;

Hon. J. A. Darling, Minister of Public Works;

Hon. T. J. Bentley, Minister of Public Health;

Hon. J. W. Burton, Provincial Secretary;

Hon. A. G. Kuziak, Minister of Telephones.

That a single group, the farmers, form such a large part of the population is one reason for the unparalleled unanimity of feeling among residents of Saskatchewan on a great many issues. Almost every person in the province directly or indirectly depends for his livelihood upon the farmer.

It is not surprising, then, that the co-operative movement, which began in Saskatchewan as a farmer activity, has grown to the point where it counts its members in terms of hundreds of thousands.

Oil drilling rigs and "roughnecks" have become a familiar sight in Saskatchewan.



In the fiscal year 1944-45, 876 co-operatives reported combined membership of about 300,000, with total resources of \$71,000,000 and a business turnover of nearly \$200,000,000. In the space of nine years, the movement grew to the point where in 1953-54 there were 1,108 co-operatives with a combined membership of about 595,423, with total resources of \$218,260,033 and a business turnover of nearly \$438,652,174. At the end of 1954, there were 32 co-operative farms and 10 machinery co-ops in the province.

Together with a trend towards larger and larger farms in Saskatchewan is the complementary growth of populations in cities, towns and villages. Today 47.5 percent of all the people in the province live in such communities, and of these, the total labor force in the province—those not living on farms—is 159,000. There are over 300 trade union locals, with a total of approximately 35,000 members.

The labor force of Saskatchewan enjoys the protection of some of the most advanced labor legislation in Canada. For example, minimum wage regulations, applying uniformly to both men and women, are the highest in the country—\$26.00 per week in the cities and larger towns, \$24.50 per week elsewhere. Among other things Saskatchewan workers are guaranteed: the 44-hour week, provided through legislation which came into effect in 1947; two weeks' holidays with pay and eight specified statutory holidays per year; the right to organize in trade unions of their choice and to bargain collectively with their employers; workmen's compensation benefits which are the highest in Canada at 75 percent of earnings.

Another right guaranteed to every person in Saskatchewan is the right to employment without discrimination on grounds of race, creed, color or nationality. This is provided for in the Saskatchewan Bill of Rights, which also assures each person the right of access to public places, to own and occupy property without restrictive covenants and to secure an education.

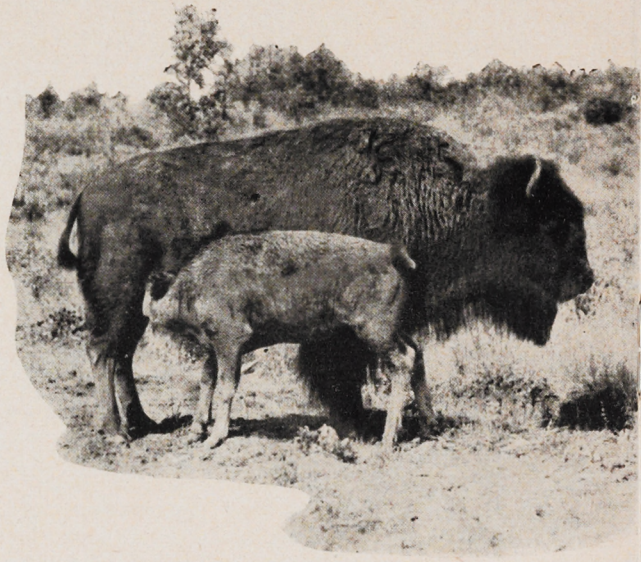
The people of the province have been extremely conscious of the importance of health to a well-developed community for some years. Cancer diagnosis and treatment are provided free of charge to any bona fide resident of Saskatchewan (minimum residence six months) who is sent by his family doctor to either of the province's two modern, well-equipped Cancer Clinics. Costs of hospitalization are borne by the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan.

The hospitalization plan is the first of its kind in North America. Since its inception in 1947 to the end of 1954, the plan has paid for 12,876,511 days in hospital (14,266,240, if newborns are included) for 1,215,773 discharged cases, (or 1,378,799 including newborns).

Total cost of the Plan during this period has been \$102,489,883. Administration costs were only four percent of total expenditure in 1954, a sharp reduction from 7.9 percent in 1947. The Plan covers 98 percent of the eligible population. It is voluntary for those resident in the Northern Administration district, while some categories are excluded because their hospitalization is covered by other government services or institutions.



Indian
in
ceremonial
regalia . . .



. . . and a remnant of
the buffalo herds than once
fed and clothed his people.



The school bell
rings now in the
wide expanse of
lake and forest
of Saskatchewan's
northern half,
where Indian and
Metis children
are given new
opportunities
for education.

The Air Ambulance Service serves to rush patients who are seriously injured or acutely ill from remote or inaccessible areas to hospitals. Between the time of its formation in 1946 and the end of 1954, more than 6,450 patients sped over a total of more than 3,000,000 air miles at nominal cost to themselves.

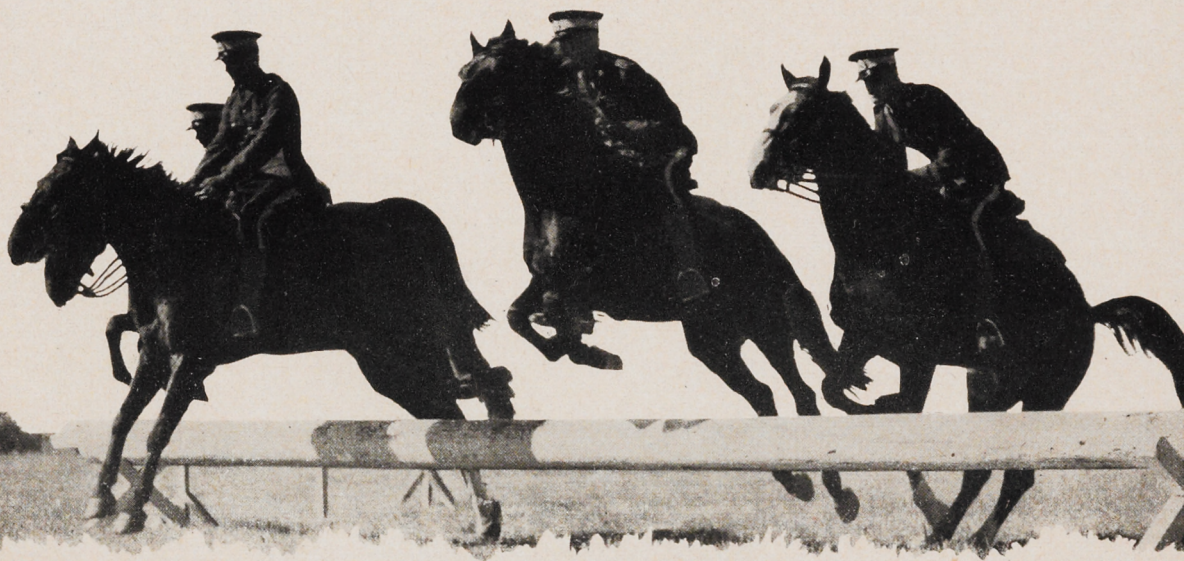
In the field of education, the people of Saskatchewan have instituted a program designed to offer the widest possible educational opportunity to every child in the province. Over many of the province's rural areas Larger School Units have been established, providing for greater equalization of standards of rural and urban areas.

In the northern part of the province administration of education is carried out by a special representative of the Department of Education. As of September, 1954, there were 2,100 pupils enrolled in northern schools. There were 21 departmental schools in the north, providing 47 classrooms and employing 60 teachers.

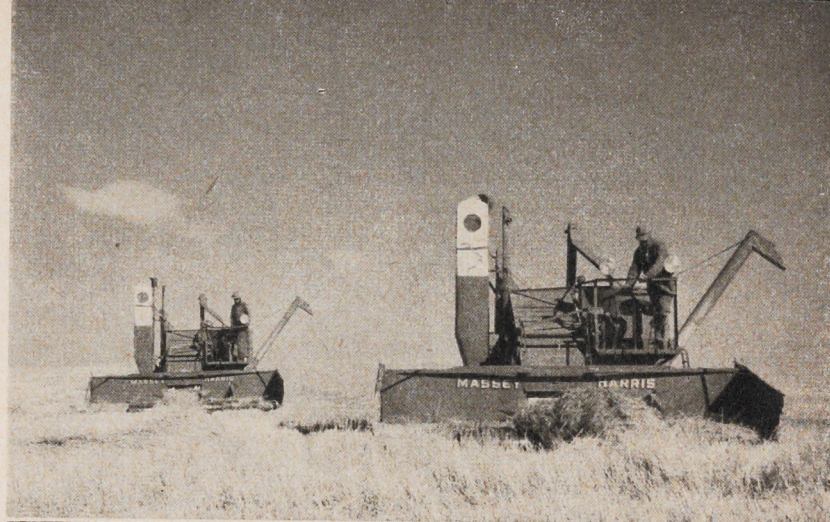
Technical and vocational education is extended to many students through composite high schools and technical schools. Education facilities have been extended to people other than children through the adult education division of the department.

The people of the province have accepted social responsibility for the health, comfort and welfare of those who cannot care for themselves by reason of illness, age, misfortune, or disability. An old age assistance plan provides for payment of pensions to persons between the ages of 65 and 69 under a means test and for four nursing homes for the aged and physically incapacitated.

A corrections branch, stressing the need for study, diagnosis, treatment and re-education of each offender, has been made responsible for the administration of the provincial corrections institutions as well as the probation and parole programs for juveniles and adults. A child welfare program works with the family to keep the child in his own home, where possible, and otherwise provides for a foster home where he will be offered a substitute family life.



The
wheatlands
get their
annual
“haircut” as
the big
combines
roll on
112,000
Saskatchewan
farms.



Spruce
ranging
to four feet
at the butt
is easily
accessible
on the level
terrain of the
150-mile-wide
commercial
timber belt.



Seeking
uranium, the
newest metal
of Saskatchewan's
mineral-rich
north.



INDUSTRY

Until recently Saskatchewan has been regarded by the rest of Canada as one of the richest wheat-producing areas of the world—that, and nothing more. Of late, however, sound exploration and management policies have put Saskatchewan on the map as one of the potentially greatest sources of natural wealth ever known.

Despite a poor crop year, this province in 1954 produced 50.5 percent of all the wheat grown in Canada, and her economy is becoming daily more and more diversified. In 1954 the total farm cash income, according to the preliminary DBS estimate, was \$446,409,000. Net value of production during 1952 was \$968,000,000 while 1953's production net value was \$865,000,000.

In face of the fact that the total farm cash income represented about 51.6 percent of the billion-dollar income, it would be unwise to minimize the importance of agriculture, even in the light of somewhat more spectacular developments in oil and uranium.

Not only does Saskatchewan exceed the combined wheat production of Manitoba and Alberta (the other two great wheat producing provinces in Canada), but she also grows about one-third of Canada's oats and barley.

Saskatchewan tops the list of all Canadian provinces in the purchases of farm machinery and repairs to that machinery.

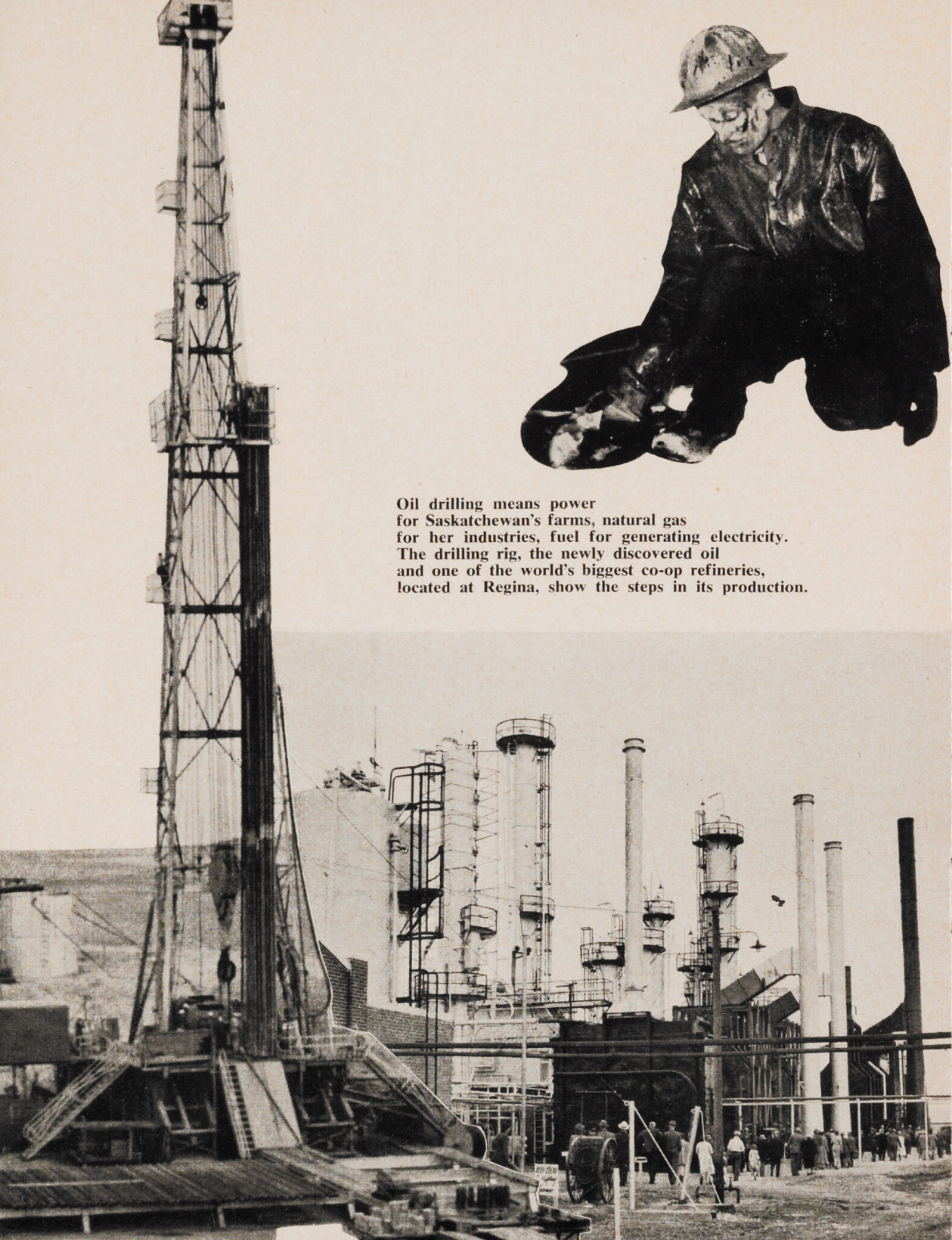
Highlighting the trend towards industrial development and industrial expansion has been the impressive and unprecedented search for oil in Saskatchewan. In 1951 oil companies spent a total of almost \$20,000,000 in exploration and development work in this province and in 1952 about \$35,000,000. During 1953 at least \$52,000,000 was spent to bring Saskatchewan's "black gold" to the surface. It is estimated that 1954 saw \$68,000,000 spent.

And the hunt for oil has not been unsuccessful. In 1950 production figures for heavy crude oil passed the million-barrel mark for the first time in history. In 1951 production reached the figure of nearly 1,250,000 barrels, and in 1952 more than 300 oil wells produced about 1,700,000 barrels of oil, with 1953 at 2,791,000 barrels and 5,418,000 barrels in 1954.

Value of the 1951 production of oil was \$1,669,000; 1952—\$2,324,000; 1953—\$3,829,000 and 1954—\$8,328,000.



Oil drilling means power
for Saskatchewan's farms, natural gas
for her industries, fuel for generating electricity.
The drilling rig, the newly discovered oil
and one of the world's biggest co-op refineries,
located at Regina, show the steps in its production.



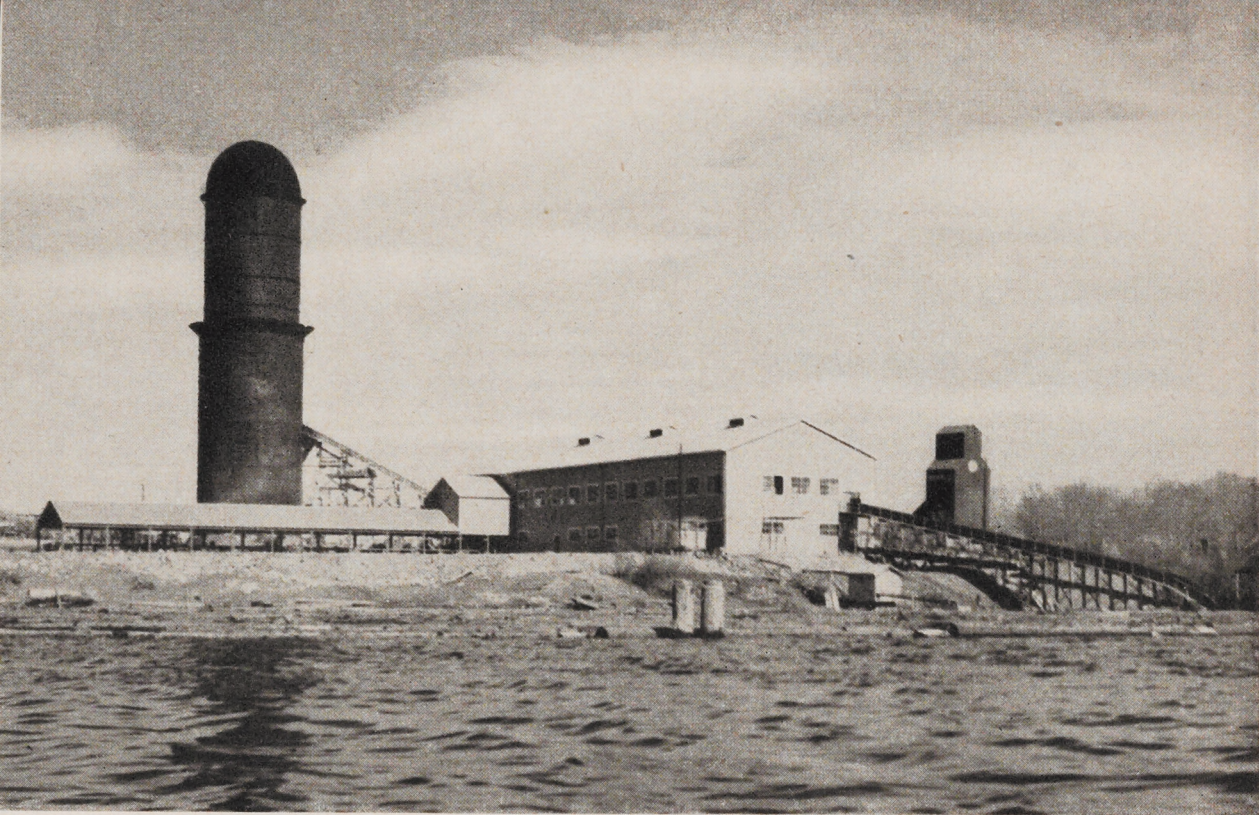
Metallic minerals, too, have entered the limelight as a most important natural resource to Saskatchewan. The search for uranium and northern mineral development in the year 1952 saw a record expenditure of about \$15,500,000. Up to the end of 1954 it is estimated that \$50,000,000 has been spent for capital expenditures.

Dozens of private companies, as well as Eldorado Mining and Refining Co., Ltd., a federal government crown corporation, have been developing promising finds in the Beaverlodge area. There is a possibility, many experts feel, that Saskatchewan might become the greatest uranium producer in the world in a few years.

During the year 1953, it is estimated that \$448,000,000 in new investments were made in Saskatchewan. In 1953, total retail trade was \$844,951,000, an increase of 10.6 percent over 1952. Average 1954 weekly earnings of workers in the nine leading industries were \$56.08, an increase of \$1.53 over 1953.

Other statistics indicate equally well the industrial expansion and growth of economic activity in the province during 1954.

- Electric power generated during 1954 passed the 1,287,706,000 k.w.h. mark. About 55 percent of this was produced by steam generating plants in the southern half of the province; the other 45 percent from hydro developments in the north.
- Total mineral production was valued at \$57,000,000.
- Coal production, mainly from strip mining, amounted to 2,114,932 tons.
- Sodium sulphate production was more than 165,521 tons.
- The commercial fishing catch for the 1953-54 fiscal year was 8,481,011 pounds.
- Forest products during the 1953-54 year brought close to \$9,065,801.
- Natural gas production climbed from 1,620,000,000 cubic feet in 1953 to about 4,958,000,000 cubic feet in 1954.



Government sawmill at Big River.

In terms of services—utilities and transportation facilities—Saskatchewan is well provided with all the essentials.

The Saskatchewan Power Corporation, a government-owned company, has been working steadily since its formation in 1944 to bring electricity to farm homes, villages and towns, as well as to co-ordinate and expand its facilities throughout the province. At the end of 1954, 25,000 farms had been served with electric power.

Saskatchewan Government Telephones, another crown company, provides the province with modern up-to-date telephone service. Steady expansion of lines and services has been taking place rapidly since the years of the Second World War. In 1954 there were approximately 175,904 telephones in service in Saskatchewan, an increase of more than 10.5 percent over the previous year.

Saskatchewan is well served by a provincial highway main road system of 8,280 miles with approximately 1,111 of these hard-surfaced. The five-year program now in progress calls for extensive additions to the hard surfaced mileage as well as impressive gravelling and grading projects. In addition to highways, most municipalities are served by either or both train and bus (Saskatchewan Transportation Company) services, while Saskatchewan Government Airways maintains a chain of airlines over the northern part of the province.

The capital city of Saskatchewan, Regina, is in the centre of a rich agricultural district and has direct railway connections with all the important points in Western Canada. Some manufacturing is carried out in Regina. The beautiful provincial Legislative Building is situated there in the midst of a fine park on the shores of Wascana Lake. Regina is also the home of Regina College, an affiliate of the University of Saskatchewan. Population, according to the 1951 Dominion census, was 71,319.

Saskatoon, which straddles the South Saskatchewan River, is important commercially and educationally. Population in 1951 was 53,268. It is the seat of the

The Medical College at the University of Saskatchewan will offer a complete course to students of medicine.



University of Saskatchewan and one of the provincial Normal Schools. It is also an important railway and distributing centre for a highly productive farming district. One of the Canadian Government storage elevators is situated at Saskatoon.

Moose Jaw, an important railway point, has extensive stockyards and flour mills. A large storage elevator with a capacity of about 4,000,000 bushels of grain is situated there, as well as special equipment for cleaning grain. Moose Jaw, home of one of the provincial Normal Schools, had a 1951 population of 24,355.

Prince Albert, just south of the geographic centre of the province, is the jumping-off point for most of Northern Saskatchewan. The city contains large sawmills and flour mills. It is also a centre for farm supplies and marketing and for fur trading. Population in 1951 was 17,067.

Other cities and populations of Saskatchewan are: North Battleford, 7,489; Swift Current, 7,430; Weyburn, 7,138; and Yorkton, 7,054



The
University
gates
at
Saskatoon.



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